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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte NEIL FREDERICK BRANDER
and
ANDREW JOHN ZELENKA

Application No. 08/976,159

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL

This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on May 23, 2003. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

On February 19, 2002, appellants filed a Notice of Appeal (Paper No. 20) "from the decision of the Examiner made in the Final Office Action dated October 29, 2001 finally rejecting claims 1-9 and 12-36." The Office communication mailed August 19, 2002 (Paper No. 23) stated that:

1. claims 1-9, 12-13, 21-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over The Depository Trust Company (DTC) in view of Hawkins;

2. claims 14-17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DTC in view of Lupien; and

3. claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DTC in view of Lupien as applied to claim 14 above and further in view of Hawkins.

Appellants reiterated these grounds of rejection on page 3 and 4 of their Supplemental Appeal Brief filed November 25, 2002 (Paper No. 24). In the Examiner's Answer mailed January 31, 2003 (Paper No. 25), however, the examiner lists the following rejections:

1. claims 1-9, 12-13, 21-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DTC in view of Hawkins; and

2. claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DTC in view of Lupien as applied to claim 14 above and further in view of Hawkins.

It should be noted that the examiner fails to discuss the rejection of claims 14-17 and 19-20. Appropriate correction is required.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner for a determination regarding the rejection of

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ams 14-17 and 19-20, written notification to appellants
garding the action taken, and for such further action as may
appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By:


DALE SHAW

Program and Resources Administrator
(703) 308-9797

cc: Kenyon & Kenyon
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004

ds/psb/lc
RA030360